

NOTICE TO OFFERORS

SOLICITATION NO. TIRNO-98-R-00039
AMENDMENT NO. 0005

TO ALL OFFERORS:

Attached are the following documents to the Electronic Research Service Solicitation:

1. Amendment 0005,
2. Additional questions and responses (numbers 1 through 5).

AMENDMENT OF SOLICITATION/MODIFICATION OF CONTRACT				1. CONTRACT ID CODE		PAGE OF PAGES	
2. AMENDMENT/MODIFICATION NO.		3. EFFECTIVE DATE		4. REQUISITION/PURCHASE REQ. NO.		5. PROJECT NO. <i>(If applicable)</i>	
6. ISSUED BY		CODE		7. ADMINISTERED BY <i>(If other than Item 6)</i>		CODE	
8. NAME AND ADDRESS OF CONTRACTOR <i>(No., street, county, State and ZIP Code)</i>				(X)		9A. AMENDMENT OF SOLICITATION NO.	
						9B. DATED <i>(SEE ITEM 11)</i>	
						10A. MODIFICATION OF CONTRACT/ORDER NO.	
						10B. DATED <i>(SEE ITEM 11)</i>	
CODE		FACILITY CODE					

11. THIS ITEM ONLY APPLIES TO AMENDMENTS OF SOLICITATIONS

- ☐ The above numbered solicitation is amended as set forth in Item 14. The hour and date specified for receipt of Offers ☐ is extended, ☐ is not extended. Offers must acknowledge receipt of this amendment prior to the hour and date specified in the solicitation or as amended, by one of the following methods:
- (a) By completing items 8 and 15, and returning _____ copies of the amendment; (b) By acknowledging receipt of this amendment on each copy of the offer submitted; or (c) By separate letter or telegram which includes a reference to the solicitation and amendment numbers. FAILURE OF YOUR ACKNOWLEDGMENT TO BE RECEIVED AT THE PLACE DESIGNATED FOR THE RECEIPT OF OFFERS PRIOR TO THE HOUR AND DATE SPECIFIED MAY RESULT IN REJECTION OF YOUR OFFER. If by virtue of this amendment your desire to change an offer already submitted, such change may be made by telegram or letter, provided each telegram or letter makes reference to the solicitation and this amendment, and is received prior to the opening hour and date specified.

12. ACCOUNTING AND APPROPRIATION DATA *(If required)*

13. THIS ITEM ONLY APPLIES TO MODIFICATION OF CONTRACTS/ORDERS.
IT MODIFIES THE CONTRACT/ORDER NO. AS DESCRIBED IN ITEM 14.

CHECK ONE	A. THIS CHANGE ORDER IS ISSUED PURSUANT TO: <i>(Specify authority)</i> THE CHANGES SET FORTH IN ITEM 14 ARE MADE IN THE CONTRACT ORDER NO. IN ITEM 10A.
	B. THE ABOVE NUMBERED CONTRACT/ORDER IS MODIFIED TO REFLECT THE ADMINISTRATIVE CHANGES <i>(such as changes in paying office, appropriation date, etc.)</i> SET FORTH IN ITEM 14, PURSUANT TO THE AUTHORITY OF FAR 43.103(b).
	C. THIS SUPPLEMENTAL AGREEMENT IS ENTERED INTO PURSUANT TO AUTHORITY OF:
	D. OTHER <i>(Specify type of modification and authority)</i>

E. IMPORTANT: Contractor ☐ is not, ☐ is required to sign this document and return _____ copies to the issuing office.

14. DESCRIPTION OF AMENDMENT/MODIFICATION *(Organized by UCF section headings, including solicitation/contract subject matter where feasible.)*

Except as provided herein, all terms and conditions of the document referenced in Item 9A or 10A, as heretofore changed, remains unchanged and in full force and effect.

15A. NAME AND TITLE OF SIGNER <i>(Type or print)</i>		16A. NAME AND TITLE OF CONTRACTING OFFICER <i>(Type or print)</i>	
15B. CONTRACTOR/OFFEROR	15C. DATE SIGNED	16B. UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	16C. DATE SIGNED
<i>(Signature of person authorized to sign)</i>		<i>(Signature of Contracting Officer)</i>	

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Solicitation No. TIRNO-98-R-00039, Amendment No. 5

The following changes are hereby incorporated into solicitation No. TIRNO-98-R-00039:

1. Add the following sentence to the end of Section 3.8.1, Subsection 3 – Mandatory Specifications:

“Offerors shall organize their response to the Government’s minimum mandatory requirements by award group, for each award group proposed.”

2. Add the following sentence to the end of Section 3.8.1, Subsection 4 – Highly Desirable Features:

“Offerors shall organize their response to the Government’s highly desirable features by award group, for each award group proposed.”

3. Delete Section 3.8.3 in its entirety and replace with the following:

3.8.3 Alternate Price Proposals

The Government is looking for the solution that provides the best value to the Internal Revenue Service over a potential 4-year period. Therefore, the Government will accept alternate price proposals. The price for any alternate proposal must conform to the performance period stated in the RFP – a base year and three option years. Alternate proposals must be priced in a manner that allows the Government to readily identify and evaluate the proposal pricing data. Alternate proposals will be evaluated based on the evaluation criteria detailed in the RFP. Alternate proposals must meet the Government’s requirements in order to be considered for award.

The alternate proposal shall contain Exhibit C as Table 1, to show the individual component prices. In the event that there is no charge for an item, the Offeror shall so stipulate by placing the acronym “N/C” in the appropriate description column. In an instance where “N/C” is entered, the Government will have the right to order that item from the successful Offeror at no charge to the Government. In the event that there is an item proposed, that is not separately priced, the Offeror shall so stipulate by placing the acronym “NSP” in the appropriate description column.

4. Delete Section B.1.11 in its entirety and replace with the following:

B.1.11 Exhibit C, Detailed Pricing Worksheet – Complete these worksheets for all packages proposed, on all products and for all platforms, i.e. DOS, WIN, Internet and CD-ROM. A detailed pricing breakdown shall be provided for each specific sub component of Packages 2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10,12,13, and 14. The sum total rollup figures shall be transferred to Exhibit B, the Master Pricing Worksheet.

If a vendor’s proposed pricing for any given year is the same for all of the platforms, then the vendor may complete one Detailed Pricing Worksheet (Exhibit C) for each of the packages proposed for that year. However, the vendor must state in its proposal that the pricing submitted is the same for all platforms for that given year. Exhibit B, the Master Pricing Worksheet, must be completed for all platforms for each year.

The information in Tax Package #1, the “Core Tax Package” and Tax Package #11, “Standalone CD-ROM Package,” lend themselves to providing a “Bottom Line” figure for all the tax

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components, however, a breakdown of (1) Training Cost, (2) Editorial Support Cost, and (3) Technical Support Cost for both packages is also required. The sum of these four lines shall be rolled up to the "Master Pricing Worksheet."

Vendors shall propose prices on a monthly concurrent-user rate for each platform within each package proposed for the base year and the three option years.

5. Add the following to the end of Section C.1.4.3.1:

If the location of the libraries is the same for all years, for multiple platforms, vendors may complete only one Inventory Listing Worksheet exhibit for all platforms with the same inventory. If this is the case, vendors shall state in their proposals that the data is located in the same file area for all platforms and all years.

6. Delete the Government's response to question number 13 (which was provided with Amendment 0003) in its entirety, and replace with the following:

"The purpose for requesting the location of the libraries is to be able to actually locate the electronic file. Some products are assembled differently from others and data becomes difficult to locate."

The due date for receipt of proposals remains the same at February 12, 1999 at 3:00 p.m., Eastern Standard Time.

Responses to additional questions received are hereby attached.

ALL OTHER TERMS AND CONDITIONS REMAIN UNCHANGED

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL NO. TIRNO-98-R-00039

THE FOLLOWING ARE RESPONSES TO ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS RECEIVED
REGARDING THIS SOLICITATION:

1. Question: According to Section 3.8, Proposal Preparation Instructions, the Technical Proposal should consist of Section 3 containing Mandatory Specifications and Section 4 containing Highly Desirable Features. If this format would make it difficult to review an entire package, should the responses to Section 3 and Section 4 be merged into a single section organized in sequential order by the 14 packages (matching the SOW)? Or as an alternative, should the responses be merged into a single section organized by award group? Or should the Vendor leave Section 3 and Section 4 separate, but reorganize the packages and associated CLINs by award group? What impact will any of these options have on the responses to requirements in C.1, C.3 and C.4, which do not correspond to a specific package or award group?

Response: Section 3.8, Proposal Preparation Instructions, Subsections 3 and 4, will be revised to require Offerors to organize responses to Section 3 – Mandatory Specifications and Section 4 – Highly Desirable Features by award group, for each award group proposed. Sections C.1, C.3 and C.4 pertain to all of the tax packages.

2. Question: Amendment change #15 states that the SOW takes precedence over the exhibits. Since Exhibit C, Detailed Pricing Worksheet, and Exhibit C, Inventory Listing Worksheet, were not revised by the amendment, should the vendor modify the exhibits to reflect changes and additions made to the SOW as well as correct any other discrepancies that might exist in the worksheets?

Response: These exhibits were provided as an aid to Offerors in preparing their proposals. Vendors should revise these exhibits as necessary in responding to the Government's minimum mandatory requirements and highly desirable features as set forth in the solicitation. All Offerors must meet the Government's minimum mandatory requirements in order to be considered technically acceptable.

3. Question: Amendment No. 0003, Question 2: The response states "Complete these worksheets on all products and for all platforms, i.e., DOS, WIN, Internet and CD-ROM." The vendor would like to clarify if the Detailed Pricing Worksheet exhibits need to be completed for each of the five platforms for each of the four years (i.e. 5 platforms x 4 years x 20 pages = 400 total pages to be submitted per vendor) or if the vendor may complete one exhibit for each year when the price for each year is the same across like platforms (i.e., online DOS, online WIN and web)? This would result in 80 pages for each group of the same priced platforms (i.e., 1 group of same priced platforms x 4 years x 20 pages = 80 total pages)?

Response: The solicitation will be revised to state that if a vendor's proposed price for any given year is the same for all of the platforms, then the vendor may complete one Detailed Pricing Worksheet (Exhibit C) for each package proposed for each year. However, the vendor must state in its proposal that the pricing submitted is the same for all platforms for that given year. Exhibit B, the Master Pricing Worksheet, must be completed for all platforms for each year.

4. Question: Amendment No. 0003, Question 13: The response states: "The purpose of requesting the location of the libraries is to be able to actually locate the electronic file for technical evaluation, training and research purposes." The vendor would like to clarify if the "location of the libraries" is the same for all years for multiple platforms, may the vendor complete only one Inventory Listing Worksheet exhibit for all platforms with the same inventory?

Response: This is acceptable. The solicitation will be revised to state that if the location of the libraries is the same for all years for multiple platforms, vendors may complete only one Inventory Listing Worksheet exhibit for all platforms with the same inventory. Vendors should state in their proposals that the data is located in the same file area for all platforms and all years.

The response to question 13 will be revised to read as follows: "The purpose for requesting the location of the libraries is to be able to actually locate the electronic file. Some products are assembled differently from others and data becomes difficult to locate."

5. Question: Inventory Listing Worksheet: Specific sections of the Inventory Listing Worksheet request the vendor to "list specific title/topic & author." May the vendor list publisher "and/or" author, depending upon which information is readily available?

Response: This is acceptable.